MR. GREELEYS POLITICAL POSITION AND MOTIVES IN THE LATE PRESIDENTIAL

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sin: In the numerous notices and "recollections" of Mr. Greeley by partisan hands, since the death of that distinguished man, the intimation is often made that he not only lost coste as a Republican, but lost character by becoming the candidate of the opposition at the late election; and this chapter of his life is patronizingly passed over as one which might better be treated with silence and left to oblivion.

In the first place, no such thing is possible in a life as eminent and as conspicuous as that of Mr. Greeley. In the next, it is an impertment imputation which every friend of his desires promptly to repel. No such forbearance is asked or desired. His friends challenge the closest scrutiny on this as on every other chapter of his eventful life. Mr. Greeley threw himself into the canvass as the determined opponent of a sordid corruption that he believed was disgracing the Republican party and destroying the public morals. The late numerous and painful publie disclosures of Crédit Mobilier, Senatorial, and other corruptions, that have simultaneously burst upon and astounded the country, demonstrate to the world how well founded his convictious were.

These developments throw a flood of light upon the late canvass by making plain to all what was previously known to but comparatively few; namely, that our national politics had long been becoming theroughly corrupt. They have also widened the basis of the knowledge possessed by those few, and more than confirmed all their worst suspicions. There is no longer any doubt that widespread rottenness prevaits in our public affairs and among our public men. The question now is getting to be, how much have we left that is sound? How many States and how many Congress districts exist that are not under the control of corrupt agencies and influences?

THE BEGINNING OF PUBLIC CORRUPTION.

The fruitage season of corruption, now running to seed in Washington, and all over the country, was preceded by its budding and blesseming time at the Capitol. It began in the period of war contrasts in the time of Mr. Lincoln ; it continued under the hybrid administration of close of the war, when Gen. Grant's military and personal friends took possession of our civil affairs. Ita growth was at that period viewed with the deepest concern by every observer cognizant of public affairs. The inauguration of Gen. Grant became an epoch in its progress. The instant raid then made upon the offices by a rough-shod and eager crew, who knew what they became Republicans for, was one of the most significant events in our political history. The old Republicans were everywhere immediately displaced by the new crowd.

It was not long before there came reports of numerous accomplished and attempted thefts, robberies, defalcations, and swindling transactions in the various Departments, in addition to the usual supply in Congress. The most conspicuous of these, and the one which first excited wide attention, arcse in the Post-Office Department, and subsequent- that these be given over to purer custodians. He ly became notorious as the "Chorpenning Claim." Mr. Postmaster-General Creswell had deliberately sanctioned an attempt to take from the Treasury the sum of \$449,000, on a claim urged by his former lawpartner, which the House of Representatives, by a nearly unanimous vote, declared fraudulent and void. This was deemed a proper occasion by some of the best Republicans in Congress to break ground, and make a resolute stand against an evidently still rising tide of corruption, which, if not checked by some concerted and authoritative measures, it was seen would soon debauch the new Executive Covernment, further demoralize Congress and the coun try, and result finally in endangering the ascendency of the Republican party. In the event of Gen. Grant's failing to invite Mr. Creswell to resign, it was suggested that Congress should give a significant bint to that gentleman to retire. But while Congress was prompt to stamp Mr. Creawell's action as infamous, it exhibited an incredible reluctance to do anything which looked like personally antagonizing members against him. The reasons for this reluctance were not then understood, and until lately have only been but partially disclosed. They become surprisingly clear in the light of recent devel-

MR. GREELEY ENTERS THE LISTS AGAINST COR

RUPTION. proached and solicited to make open proclamation against the Creswell transaction and throw the whole eight of THE TRIBUNE into a resolute demand for his removal. Mr. Greeley was at that time a warm friend and supporter of Gen. Grant and the Administration. It was urged upon him that the good name and honorable character of the Republican party demanded that Creswell should go overboard; that in no other way could so much be done to check the bold march of venality and corruption; that it was the duty of the Republican press to call spon the President to set his face like a fint against this first open and flagrant attempt at public robbery; that it might be early understood that the new Administration would not for one moment tolerate transactions like this. It was the first actual and threatening crevasse that had opened, and it must be promptly stopped if an inundation was to be averted. These views were enforced by suggest ing the inquiry as to what would probably be Mr. Creswell's fate if, instead of Gen. Grant, Mr. Chase, or Mr. Fessenden, or Mr. Charles Francis Adams, were at the head of the Administration. There was no one to contest the conclusion that in either case Mr. Creswell's place would not be worth an hour's purchase. Mr. Greeley recognized the force of the considerations alleged, and offered to print anything in aid of the object in view, and did publish some strictures on the transaction; but, as it was thought that Gen. Grant's pertinacity and pride of opinion, in the selection of his Cabinet officers, was not likely to be overcome by any mere newspaper solicitations, Mr. Greeley did not see his way clear to make such a pronounced effort as was desired. It proved subsequently that this view of the case was correct, so far as any action of Geu. Grant in the premises was concerned. For the President was afterward approached on the same subject by eminent Republicans in Congress, who were his supporters then, and who are his supporters now, and a reconstruction of his Cabinet urged on the ground of this and other scandals, of which it was argued the Republican party ought not to bear the weight but the attempt to secure such reconstruction signally failed, though backed by high Senatoria names. The President thought that Creswell and Robeson were as good as any of the rest of his Cabinet.

HOW MR. GREELEY AIMED TO CORRECT ABUSES. Rut it is not Presidential obtuseness that I wish to illustrate, but the character and position of Mr. Greeley. Always a warm partisan and an ardent supporter of the Republican party, seeking the forefront of the battle, he was not anxious to find flaw in its administration, but sought to excuse rather than condemn. He was unwilling to make sharp issues with Gen. Grant's Administration, even while condemning its tone and many of its acts. He thought there was a better way, and that friendly solicitation would serve better than indignant comment. It is known to all readers of THE TRIBUNE that he pursued that course through all the Cabinet scandals, and all the carpet-bag rascalities and robberies, the irregularities and swindling operations of the vast crowd of revenue officers in New-York and elsewhere, the defalcations and speculations of what was known as the "Military Ring," and the general gorging of the new tribs who had gained possession of the Government places, till at length he could stand it no longer. Mr. Greeley steadily aimed at the friendly correction of these abuses, by, as might almost be said, supporting Gen. Grant against Gen. Grant's Administration. Fully recognizing the necessity of Reform, he aimed to secure it by continuing his support of the regular organization of the Republican party. Party divisions in the State of New-York greatly embarrassed this line of action, and Mr.

Greeley was often made to feel, by the action of party managers, how vocani'ing were his efforts.

I mark the epoch of the Creswell transaction cause it was about that time that Mr. Greeley's mind began to be more impressed with the magnitude and widespread character of the corruptions that had seized hold of the country, and which neither the precept nor the example of the national administration were calculated to check. Revolving the subject in his mind, he finally came to the conclusion that things ought not to go on in the old ruts any longer, and that a change was necessary. He ac cordingly avowed his opposition to Gen. Grant's renomination. He used to speak privately of affairs in Washington as being "rotten through and through" in Congress and the Departments, but especially in the Post-Office Department; and that he could see no remedy except in a complete change from top to bottom. A particular point of discouragement was that Gen. Cox's efforts to begin a civil service reform at Washington, while a member of the Cabinet, were hosted at, and cost that able and honest man his place. A man high in the long exercise of his Senatorial office at Washington used at the time to regale the willing ear of the President with his views of the absurdity of attempting any such reform, and by volunteering his judgment that Mr. Cox was only fit to be Secretary of the Interior in the "Kingdom of Heaven." But this question afterward took on such a threatoning aspect that the President felt compelled, at a late day, to declare himself a convert to the doctrine to which Cox had been sacrificed.

PARTISAN CONSIDERATIONS REJECTED. But at length Mr. Greeley saw, what became evident to everybody, that Gen. Grant's renomination was a forcordained event; that his redlection would only perpetuate and intensity a state of things which he was firmly persuaded had gone on already quite too long for the public good, Mr. Greeley felt that he knew. The question with him at this juneture was, whether he would bow to this coming decision of the Republican party, and support its nominee, or whether he would resist and contest the issue. Mr. Greeley's position at this time was viewed by Republicans with great interest and concern, and many doubts were expressed as to whether he would stick." It was generally believed that his active Republican sentiments and his old strong partisan feelings would finally prevail to shape his action, and that he would, in obedience to them, do as he Andrew Johnson; and flowered vigorously at the | did in the canvass of 1848, when he determinedly opposed Gen. Taylor's nomination. At that time, after finding his opposition fruitless, he reluctantly wheeled into line and supported the ticket. It was thought he would de so now.

But the event proved this expectation groundless. Mr. Greeley gave abundant notice from time to time, in his journal, that the period had arrived when he would no longer be swayed by partisan considerations, but that he would renounce the position of party organ, and following the dictates of his own judgment and conscience, throw himself and his paper exclusively upon the general public intelligence for support. He claimed that he could not conscientionsly support the continuation of the existing state of things, and would not countenance by his voice or his vote the men who were corruptly, as he believed, controlling public affairs. He demanded was not tired of Republicans or Republicanism. His faith was unchanged. But he hated corruption, and he longed for honesty and purity and moral perception in administration. He was ready to make every sacrifice and fight the battle on a forlorn hope rather than yield his convictions of what the public good demanded.

This was the position of Mr. Greeley at a period anterior to the call of a body of independent Reformers who were in motion for a convention in the interests of Civil Service and Revenue Reform.

MR. GREELEY STILL A REPUBLICAN. It is easy to say from a partisan point of view that, in taking this position, Mr. Greeley left the Republican party. He did no such thing. He dissented from the action of a majority of its representatives, in their nomination of a candidate for President. He did this from high motives of public President. He did this from high motives of public policy, as well as in the interest of Republicanism itself. He did not wish to overthrow it or defeat it, but to purify and vitalize it. He did not wish to undo one of its great achievements. He did not wish to modify one of its great results. He was still for emancipation, for enfranchisement, for the equal rights of all men, in behalf of which a great war had been successfully waged. He aimed at the education and elevation of the benighted children of the African race on this continent, and to see that not one right of theirs was abridged by any measure of public policy. More than this, he aimed to advance the Republican standard still to the forward in the direction it had policy, as well as in the interest of Republicanism It was at this period that Mr. Greeley was ap- not one right of theirs was abridged by any measure further forward in the direction it had been steadily moving since the Rebellion began, and to gain in the future even greater tri umphs than it had achieved in the past. He wished to consolidate those triumphs by harmonizing the antagonisms between the two races at the South, and by softening and removing the asperities between the North and South which those triumphs had created. He patriotically aimed at these lofty purposes in the future, thus to secure more completely the Republican achievements of the past. These were his plain, transparent, well defined, often explained motives and purposes in the position he asumed, after dissenting from the nomination of Gen.

Grant. Was this to cease to be a Republican, or was it to be more of a Republican than ever? How absurd and preposterous then to charge or to intimate that Mr. Greeley deserted his Republicanism, or changed his ground, or lowered his tone upon one single point embraced in the original creed, or any of its accretions, of the Republican party, from the beginning

to the end of his luminous career. He declined to support the Republican nomination of Gen. Grant. He did it, as we have seen, from high moral and patriotic considerations. He aimed to defeat his election, still holding to every political principle and dograa he had espoused since the founding of the Republican party. And this is all. To condemn Mr. Greeley for this, or in a review of his character to hold this conduct up for animadversion as reflecting upon his honesty or his truth, or his consistency even, is to measure him by a standard and weigh him in a scale which has no recognition among the eternities. It is only by applying a high moral standard that we can determine whether a man has acted unworthily. To refuse to go with the majority of one's party may be the hight of virtue. It depends on the motive, and it depends on the object. If these be pure, the act is commendable; and it may happen that such an act is the most resplendent of a political life. Without caring to claim so much as this for Mr. Greeley, I do hold that it is only a short-sighted partisanship that can see in Mr. Greeley's course, up to this point, anything to censure or condemn. And where such censure or such condemnation is expressed, it must be deemed rather the measure of the critic himself than of the object criticised. For those who say they cannot reconcile Mr. Greeley's position with his previous career, his friends have only to say that such a remark is tantamount to admitting an inability to understand how a high motive can prevail against a low one.

THE CANDIDATE OF THE DEMOCRACY.

But it is the complaint of Mr. Greeley's critics, not only that he declined to support the nomination of the Republican party, but that he became the candidate of their great adversary, the Democratic party, of whom Mr. Greeley himself had been the lifelong and persistent opponent. The implication from this fact is that he deserted his own and went over to the Democratic party.

While the facts alleged are notorious, the implication is wholly without foundation. A simple narrative of events as they occurred dispels the charge. His being a candidate was purely a secondary and accidental circumstance. His position, as I have endeavored to elucidate it, was taken wholly independent of this circumstance. It was assumed when he was scarcely thought of as a Presidential candidate, and when any betting man would have offered a thousand to one against his chances for such a nomination. Mr. Greeley himself was not thinking of it, but only of loading the way

at the head of his great and influential journal, in protesting, in behalf of thousands and tens of thenseands of thinking and cornect Republicans, against the corruptions of the men who are influential leaders of the Republican party. He was polishing his weapons for a contest in which he knew he should delight, and into which he proposed to enter with his whole heart and soul. He felt his power, and he knew it was greatest in an aggressive war against corruption and incompetency, against criminality and falsehood in the gaise of political virtue. He looked for a great defection in the Republican ranks under this protesting banner. In this he differed from many of his personal friends, who believed that the public confidence in Gen. Grant remained in the main unshaken, and that when his name came again before the people all secondary considerations would be triamphantly elected. But Mr. Greeley would be triamphantly elected. But Mr. Greeley would be triamphantly elected. But Mr. Greeley would ight his battles all the same, regardless of consequences, and regardless of all temporary sacrifices, pecuniary and otherwise, that he knew his convey would inevitably entail. He undoubtedly believed he was laying the foundation for a broad and successful Reform movement in the future, and that the lesses now would be more than compensated by the gains hereafter. It was Mr. Greeley's intellectual habit to be always preparing the way for a bottor future. He was a man ever impatient for progress. He was never content to rest on accompished results. He was always on the alert for new positions and new issues. It was a favorite theory of his that frequent political changes were useful to the public. He held that every party became corrupt by being long in power, and that this corruption was never fully probed and never destroyed except by such changes. He cared nothing for the preservation of party except as an agency to promote high principles and useful mensures. He did care everything for principles; but if they were igno HIS POSITION CONCERNING THE TARIFF.

There is really no reason whatever to believe Mr. Greeley anticipated any other result than that we have indicated in the opposition he had now avowed. With the people who originally proposed to meet at Cineinnati for Civil Service and Revenue Reform, Mr. Greeley had no sympathy. Their cardinal object was to make head against that projective policy which he had long warmly supported. But as a body favorable to reform in general, Mr. Greeley alined to utilize it in the direction of such reforms as he himself favored. He thought the two classes of reformers might act harmoniously in pursuit of a common object, by agreeing each to remit the chief subject of disagreement between them, namely, the Tariff question, to the popular constituencies of the Congress Districts. It is hard to see anything blamable in this, but only a wise precaution; since practically it did not alter the position of the question in the present or the future by a hair's breadth. But it has been made a matter of reproach to Mr. Greeley, in the allegation that he thereby abandoned his own previous position on the subject. The reproach is unmerited; since the allegation is wholly untrue. He did not abandon any position he ever occupied on the subject, and did not propose to forego its discussion or even the advocacy he had so long practiced. But Mr. Greeley was endeavoring to harmonize the elements of the opposition for the common advantage, and without reference to himzelf. He wanted that Convention to agree on a Presidential candilate he could support, and he did not onceal his preferences that that candidate should be Lyman Trumbull. But he sid not go to the Convention, and did not seek in the least, either by solicitation or combination, to influence its action.

But in due time, to the utter surprise of every-body, and especially of Mr. Greeley himself, it did nominate him as its candidate for the Presidency. As much of the reproach heaped upon air. Greeley is because he became the candidate of the opposition, we should like to ask just here, what was Mr. Greeley to do in these circumstances? He eritarily was not to blame for his nomination. He had not contrived is; he had not anticipated With the people who originally proposed to meet at Cincinnati for Civil Service and Revenue Reform,

much to say that he could with propriety do neither. Of all men in the movement, it was not for him to balk at the first step of the Convention, and thus interpose an obstacle to its success by discrediting its judgment. Mr. Greeley, then, was in no souse respensible for his own nomination, and thus deserves no repreach for it. He had it thrust upon him, and he could not escape its consequences. No conditions were attached to it, and no promises exacted. He was taken on a position he had long before marked out for himself, when he originally resolved on lighting the battle in the ranks, in behalf of whoever might lead.

HIS POSITION CONSISTENT THROUGHOUT. Neither because the Democrats subsequently thought it for their interest to confirm the nomination, and to accept Mr. Greeley for their candidate, is it to be imputed to him for a crime. He was but the passive recipient of unexpected honors from his old adversaries. Their action did not change his own There were numerous Democrats in every State, who, in the zeal of their partisanship, opposed him to the end, and threw State after State into the hands of Gen. Grant's friends. They at least believed Gen. Grant to be a better Democrat than Mr. Greeley. They knew that Mr. Greeley had never belonged to the Democratic party, had never joined it, had never qualified his hostility to its views in every issue it had ever raised with the Republican party in the past, and for these reasons refused their support to his nomination. It was these Democrats who would not go over to Mr. Greeley's position, and yield him their support, who compassed his defeat. They declined being parties to the sacrifice that the Baltimore Convention of the representatives of the party were willing to make,

compassed his defeat. They declined being parties to the sacrifice that the Baltimore Convention of the representatives of the party were willing to make, and did make, as the declaration of principles they adopted amply attests. Mr. Greeley himself stood firm in his own place, that of a consistent, pronounced, distinctive, but liberal and non-partisan Republican. This is not left to conjecture or assertion. His writings and his speeches, from first to last, at once luminous and copious, all show it, and are an everlasting testimony to his truth, his consistency, and his maswerving fidelity to his principles and his convictions.

No friend of his is perplexed as to his motives, or in doubt as to his inspirations, or questions the perfect interrity of his acts. His pathway needs no hedge to conceal devious and labyrinthine ways. His road was clear and open and plain to all who do not choose to be blinded by the fogs of a shallow partisanship. It is at once an insult to his memory and an insult to the personal friends who supported him through the Presidential contest, either to charge or to intimate that his reputation and his bonor is best conserved by throwing a vail over the most prominent facts and circumstances of his whole political life. His friends say, No! Uncover everything. Let all be told. Conceal nething. We challenge the sharpest scrutiny, But why say even this full that the proceed light of the part of the most prominent facts and circumstances of his whole political life, to get a pathing to serve the best conserved by throwing a vail over the most prominent facts and circumstances of his whole political life, to get a pathing to serve the past the broed light of the part of the litical life. His friends say, No! Uncover everything. Let all be told. Conceal nething. We challenge the sharpest scrutiny. But why say even this f There is nothing to scrutinize that the broad light of open day does not already shine upon and reveal, and the impartial biographer and historian of the future, when he shall review Mr. Greeley's life and character, will find ne flaw therein, and will be compelled to pronounce the inevitable verdict: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Yours. James S. Pike.

JAMES S. PIKE. Charleston, S. C., Feb. 24, 1873.

POLITICAL BICKERINGS.

THE HOLLOW TRUCE IN APOLLO HALL. The result of the contest in the Apollo Hall General Committee, on Tuesday evening, occasioned much surprise to those outside the Committee. It was known that John McCool had formally withdrawn from the contest at the previous meeting, in consequence of the opposition manifested toward him, and it was be heved that a new man would be accepted as a compromise candidate. During the interval between the two meetings, and especialty on Wednesday evening before the session began, Senator O'Brien was occupied in button-helding members and doing his utmost to induce the friends of Mr. Brooke to vote for Mr. McCool. Various arguments were brought to bear on the unwilling ones. To very many O'Brien urged that his honor was at stake. He had pledged the organization to elect McCool, in the cancus held at Delmonico's, and if McCool were rejected, O'Brien said that the statement would be put forth that he had acted falsely and induced McCool to enter the contest for Chairman with no other purpose than to " sell out." This line of argument and the strong speeches made by O'Brien, Burton N. Harrison, Henry L. Clinton,

made by O'Brien, Burton N. Harrison, Henry L. Clinton, James M. Smith, and others, had the effect of carrying a majority of the delegates over to the support of Mo-Cool. There were many, however, who refused to vote for Mr. McCool, but from an unwillingness to foment discord they remained away, as the vote shows. The General Committee numbers 530 members, and there were 335 votes cast, showing that there were 196 absentes—an unusually large number for an exciting election.

The matter was very freely canvassed, yesterday, among the followers of Apollo Hall, and it was almost universally conceded to be a drawn battle, in which McCool was saved from defeat by the personal exertions and appeals of O'Brien and his friends. The elements which now make up Apollo Hall have not yet fused, and there are many members of the Committee who believe that harmony is out of the question. It is asserted that only a slight provocation is required to produce such a fermant as resulted as the meeting of one week ago, when a composition as a sourced with difficulty.

FACTORY OPERATIVES.

CONDITION OF THE LOWELL WORK-PEOPLE. REPORT TO THE MASSACHUSETTS LABOR BUREAU BY JUDGE COWLEY RESPECTING THE PEOPLE

EMPLOYED IN THE FACTORIES. Boston, March 1.—The Massachusetts Labor Bureau last year, with a view to ascertain the effect of special occupations upon the character and condition of ose engaged in them, invited contributions of facts and experience from prominent men in the large manufacturing towns. One of the most interesting contributions is that of Judge Cowley of Lowell. Beside the special information desired by the Commissioners, it contains many other interesting facts and statistics about Lowell and its inhabitants not before published. Judge Cowley says: The special occupation pursued in Lowell is the cetton manufacture, which now employed \$20,000 spindles, 13,000 looms, 3,000 males, and 7,500 females. Until recently,

Lowell was the principal seat of the cotton manufacture in America, but now Fail River largely exceeds in the number of her spindles and looms. Next to the cotton comes the weelen manufacture, which now employs 18 Lowell, 65,000 spindles, 1,000 looms, 2,000 females, and 1,000 males. Besides those engaged in the production of fabrics of cotton and wool, there are upward of 1,000 employés in Lowell engaged in machinery, &c. The population of Lowell is now about 45,000, having been increased about 4,000 since the census of 1870, which gave Lowell 40,025. With respect to nationality the best estimates give native Americans, 23,000; Irish, 15,000; French Canadians, 4,000; English, 2,000; Scotch, 500; miscellaneous, 500. Thus it appears almost one-half the population is of foreign birth. The average age of those employed in the factories is about 30. There are probably several hundred children under 15 years of age employed in the mills. It is well known that parents often overstate the ages of their children for the purpose of securing employment for them and of evading the school laws. Overseers, superintendents, and employers are often guilty of 601-luston with such potents to this regard. It is the rule of all the corporations not to employ children under 15. This rule was adopted in consequence of the Children's Ten Hours law of 1357. But pelther this law nor the rule to which it gave rise is generally enforced, though the law compelling the attendance at school of children under 15 for three months in each year is much more generally enforced by the great manufactories of Lowell than it is among the small private factories throughout the Com-

EFFECTS UPON HEALTH. The effect of these occupations on the health of the operatives-thanks to improvements in factory archiecture, muchinery, and ventilation-is less deleterious than formerly; and were the working time diminished by an hour or two a day, the deteterious influences, now traceable to factory labor, might entirely disappear. The special diseases incident to factory labor are lung discuses and female debility. It is doubtful if there is any effect, good or bad, due to the posture of the operatives, except in the case of weavers, whose work is one in a standing position, which tends to produce debillty. The average length of life of the operatives cannot be determined with any certainty, on account of the transitory character of the employment in many cases. Girls of 15 enter the mills, remain from one to four years, and then pass to other branches of industry, or to the duties of the household. The period of the employment of males is often still shorter. We are gradually becoming what the founder of Lowell never locked for, a permanent body of factory employés, composed partly of American, but more largely of Irish and French-Canadian elements, with English, Scotch, and German blood commingled. Perhaps we are to have here a class of resident laborers similar to that of the manufacturing cities of Europe. But a permanently settled class of employés is preferable to a class of sojourners who are here for a few days and then gone forever. The fact that for the last six years 1,266 poll tax's have been assessed annually, but not collected, may enable the student of social science to form his own estimate of the extent and value of our " birds of pas

The number of hours of work per week is 64 in nearly all the corporations. The Bleachery and a few other es-tablishments have adopted the ten-hours system, and there is a tendency to that system more general than is supposed. The method of work is partly by the day, but chiefly by the piece. The women generally work by the piece. Piece-workers earn a little more enerally, than those paid by the day. It can hardly be and that their health is better or worse than that of the day-workers. 'The average number of days' work in a year is about 275. The deductions made for lost time. from sickness and other causes, are 34 days a year There is no special season of work, but the factories run as steadily in one season as in another. Consequently the operatives rarely engage in other industries.

DANGERS TO WHICH OPERATIVES ARE EXPOSED. Working as they do in close and constant proximity to unning machinery, steam boilers, elevators, &c., there is continual liability on the part of the operatives to accidents; while it cannot, perhaps, be said that this lia-bility is greater than in many other forms of industry; and while it is andoubtedly less in the greater corpora tions than in the smaller private establishments (because of the greater system and methodicity which these btain) still any one who has read the acts of the British Parliament relating to the fencing of machinery, and has observed how carefully gearing and other dangerous mechanical contrivances are secured in British factories, will readily perceive that American operatives might easily be much better protected in this regard than they now are. The British statutes contain numerous provisions to secure the operatives from dangerous machinery, unsafe buildings, &c. But our statutes will be searched in vain for anything of the kind. Our courts, however, have not failed to recognize and apply the great principles of the common law to cases where operatives have sought damages of their employers for misries received through their negligence in the building and repairing of their factories and the construcction and operation of their machinery. It has been held by the Supreme Court that every employer is bound to adopt and provide suitable means and instruments, which includes build ing and machinery, to carry on his business, and if he falls to use reasonable care and skill in making this provision, he is responsible to his employes for any njury to them caused by his negligence. Another decision was that the owners of a store in the floor of which there was a trap-door, ar bound to use the trap-door with reference to the safety of those having a right to pass there, and if they neglec to guard against accident while the trap-door is open. they are liable to any person who, having lawful occaon to pass there, falls through the trap-doer and sus tains injuries. It was also held by the Supreme Court that any person who negligently uses a dangerous instrument or article, or authorizes its use, in such a man per that it is likely to produce injury, is responsible for the natural or probable consequences of this act to any person injured who is not himself in fault. In yet another case, the Court held that the employer of a boy under 14, unacquainted with machinery, who set num to work near gearing which was dangerous without proper precautions, was guilty of negligence, and liable

proper precautions, was guirty of negligence, and hable in damage for injuries which the boy received in consequence of his hand being caught in the gearing.

Some of the decisions applicable to factory operatives seem to require the amending hand of legislation, for in one case it was held that no action lies against the employer of two employes for the injury to one through the negligence of the other, and that no such action lies even against the servant himself guilty of the negligence, thus leaving the injured operative in such a case entirely without remedy. But there is no such exemption from liability when the person injured is not an employe of liability when the person injured is not an employe of the defendant. The discipline of all the manufacturing corporations is prescribed by printed rules and regula-tions. Payments are always in cash.

WAGES AND SAVINGS. The wages of females, clear of board, were from \$3 60 o \$3 75 per week. The wages of males, clear of board, are from \$1 28 to \$2 per day. The number of assignments of wages made by employed cannot be without significance with respect to the thriftiness or unthriftiness

two-thirds within ten years and is now very inconsiderable, owing largely to the great increase of ledging rooms before mentioned and the consequent decrease in the number of houses of disrepute. The Rev. D. Dorchester, who has given special atention to this shabled, says the laws in relation to this class of offenses are not nearly so well enforced, and cannot be, because of the nearly so well enforced, and cannot be, because of the new forms which these vices have assumed. "Many married men," he says, "in so-called respectable society, are implicated in these practices. Extra prices are paid for rooms, on condition that no questions are asked as to the uses to which they are to be put. This crime is undermining the vigor and purity of society; it strikes a blow at its very foundations, and destroys all the noble characteristics of men and women."

THE FORTUNATE PEW. There have been occasional instances of factory operatives rising to the rank of employers. The present Lieutenaat Governor of the State is a conspicuous illustration of the bright possibility which relieves the general gloom which so often overcasts the operative's skyMany others less fortunate than Mr. Tallot in exchanging the fullips mill for the gubernatorial chair, have
acquired the means to build for themselves comfortable
and converient bouses. There died here not long since,
a man of mature age, who came to Lovell in his youth,
began work at \$1.25 per day as a common operative,
and was advanced from time to time till he became an overseer with \$4 a day—his maximum
wasces. By rigid economy, and more especially
by strewd and successful investments, he
supported himself and a family of four children and left
an estate of \$25,000 at his death. This was a case of extraordinary success, but there have been scores whose
success was similar in kind though less in degree. On
the other hand, there are cases like the Vermont girl who
worked 15 years in Lowell, having no one but herself to
support, and left the mill poor, broken in health, and
now earns her living by sewing. The majority always
draw blanks.

Some of the factory boarding houses, especially some ral gloom which so often overcasts the operative's sky

draw blanks.
Some of the factory boarding bonses, especially some belonging to the Merrimae Manufacturing Company, are commodious and convenient, with pleasurable surroundings, while a lew of them, particularly some of the Midicaex Company's wooden buildings, are by no means deserving of consideration.
The introduction of Weitman's card-stripper increased

ings, while a few of them, particularly some of diesex Compeny's wooden buildings, are by no means deserving of consideration.

The introduction of Wellman's card-stripper increased the ratio of female over male operatives in the cotton manufacture. The substitution of shashes for dressing-machines diminished the number of operatives required to perform a given service. Other labor-saving provisions are making from time to time in the cotton factories. In the woolen mills there has been less progress, though the substitution of the self-acting field for the old time spinning jack has had the marked effect of relighing the jack-spinners and augmenting the demand for child-labor. For the labor of children special provisions have been made, but not here. In Fall River and in Salem there are establishments where more children are employed than are required to run the machinery, in order that a portion of them may attend factory sensod, which at Salom is conducted on the English "half-theo" system. The attendance at places of reductions worship, of which there are 30 is Lowell, may be judged of by an actual count made Sunday, April 14, 1872, when the total number in attendance was 13,055, of which the Rive Roman Catholic Churches had 6,375, nearly one-half.

Cooperation—Libraries contents of these was a content and contents had 6,375, nearly one-half.

COOPERATION-LIBRARIES Heretofore there have been various cooperative stores and trades unions and labor associations in Lowell, but they have all gone the way of all the earth, except the Ten-Hours League, which was organized in 1866, and Ten-Hours League, which was organized in 1806, and which has had a checkered existence. Sometimes it has counted its numbers by handreds and without a controlling influence over legislative elections; sometimes it has dwindled to a mere handful in numbers and to zero in influence. But for the presence and influence of certain energetic spirits, who have risen from the wage labor class, but have releained a generous sympathy for the class from which they sprung, the Ten-Hours League would long ago have collapsed. No cooperative manufacturing establishment has ever been started in Lowell. In so far as the cotton and woolen manufactories supply constant employment with regular wages sufficient for the substitutes of the operatives, it is but fair to say that the reneral effect of these industries upon the moral, intellectual, social, and material condition of the community is good. For wives burdened with worthless husbands and dependent children, they probably furnish the best refuge. But in so far as they bring fogether the serves in unequal proportions, without the restraining and clovating influence of the home, their tendency is undoubtedly decisterious.

Lowell has libraries very extensively used by the operatives, about 8 por cent of the books taken by them being novels. There are also reading-rooms, but these are not extensively used by operatives. On the whole, the condition of the factory employes of Lowell will compare favorably with that of other classes of factory operatives anywhere. At the same time, there is room for improvement in many ways, capechally by reducing their hours of daily toil, and by increasing the factifices for their intellectual development. which has had a checkered existence. Sometimes it has

SANITARY MEASURES.

THE CONTRACT FOR THE REMOVAL OF NIGHT-SOIL.

The Board of Health met yesterday. A resolution was passed resoluting a fine of \$500 indicted upon the Manhattan Odorloss Excavating Company for emptying 50 sinks without using air-tight apparatus, as it appeared that there had been no insention on the part of the Company to disobey the law. By advice of the Sanitary Committee, a vote of censure was passed upon E W. Farrington, a clerk in the Bureau of Vital Statistics, for refusing to give a burial permit to a citizen on the afternoon of Fob. 22. City famitary Inspector Janes reported that there were only eight cases of small-pox during the past week, and that on the same week of 1872 there were 73 cases. Edward Franklyn, an Assistant Health Inspector, resigned, and Dr. M. W. Blunt was elected to the position. President Boaworth amounced that both Boards of the Common Council had passed a resolution giving authority to the Board of Health to make a contract for the removal of night-soil from the city. The President then said that he had drawn up a contract which proposed that the contractor should have, day and night, two barges stationed at every one of the four new piers used by the Board, to receive free of charge Improvement Company. The contractor will have to give bonds for the proper execution of his contract. The Board then passed a resolution approving the draft contract, and designating \$10,000 as the sum to be inserted therein.

City Sanitary Inspector Janes reported that the Health Inspectors had, during the past week, inspected 1,019 cellars and basements, 50 of which were found to be in a bad sanitary condition, and 42 as unfit for human habitation. In a district bounded by Canal-st., Broadway. Houston-st., and North River, the inspectors discovered 81 cellar habitations which violated a section of the Santary Code forbidding the habitation of a cellar that has not at least two feet of its space above the level of the sidewalk, or that has a damp floor. The total number of persons living in these cellars was 315. All of the cellars were imperfectly ventilated and many were not drained. Dr. Allan McL. Hamilton, a health inspector, reported that he had inspected 66 printing establishments. He had found that the 10 buildings used by the following were defectively ventilated and were in a bad sanitary condition: Poole & McLoughlin, John Polhemus, Thomas Holman, The Daily Witness newspaper, The Sunday Democrat office, The Sunday Times and Noah's Messenger office, Cameron & Co., Douglas Taylor, and Holt Brothers. During the inspection he had questioned nearly 1,500 men, women, and boys in regard to lead-poisoning, which had been thought to endanger the hves of all working in a printing-office, and he had not discovered a case of pelsouling from this cause. The Year was evidently ground

THE SECOND ANTI-CHARTER MASS MEETING. The German mass meeting to be held totorrow night in Beethoven Hall promises to be a large and enthusiastic demonstration. The Germans, almost without exception, are opposed to the proposed Charter, and prominent persons belonging to all political parties have expressed themselves as heartily in sympathy with the cause for which the meeting is to be held. A large number of prominent persons have been invited to make have accepted. It is determined to have the demonstra tion simply is the interest of municipal reform, and hence the speakers will be Republicans and Democrats. Much regret is expressed that neither the Academy of Music nor the Cooper Institute could be engaged for the occasion. Preparations are making for an outside meeting, with which it is hoped the weather will not interfere. No efforts have been made to catch attention by cheap devices or display, but a determined spirit of opposition to the passage of the Charter is manifested to which it is the design of the meeting to give unqualified

which it is the design of the meeting to give unqualified expression.

The number of such assignments or corrided with the City Clerk in 1870, was 1,164; in 1871, 1,269; in 1872, 1,163; showing an average for those years of 1,179. The fact that about 2,000 "trustee writs" are annually sent out of the Lowell Police Court for the attachment of the wages of employés is also significant. More than haif of the employés live up to their carnings or save but little. About one-fourth save momer, and savings banks. Lowell has six such banks. The propertions of the depositors, where deposits a reasavings from wages, is considerably larger than in other places where different occupations are pursued. Husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters, often have their deposits entered in a common book.

During the last year the Minister-at-Large received 1,289 applications for material relief, of which 1,238 were granted, 27,485 35 and 722 articles of wearing appared being given sway during the year 1873 by the police. In the early years of Lowell nearly all the operatives boarded and lodged in the factory boarding-houses, all of which are situated within a few minutes' walk of the mills. But a change has occurred within a few years, which has already been attended with marked results. Many of the factory boarding-houses, all of which have already been attended with marked results. Many of the factory boarding-houses, and online the factory boarding-houses, and of the carly years of Lowell nearly all the operatives boarded and lodged in the factory boarding-house. This liberty, like others, it is the design of the meeting to dispersion to the circum.

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HIGH RENTS SUSTAINED.

MAY PROSPECTS DISCOURAGING FOR TENANTS.

SLIGHT ADVANCES IN THE BETTER QUARTERS ... THE CITY AND SUBURBS-NO REDUCTION IN ANY LOCALITIES-VERT PEW HOUSES OF ANY SORT TO LET.

According to the concurrent testimony of the principal real estate dealers, there is, as compared week the past few years, an unusual demand for houses. At the same time all authorities unite in saying that the tenants of last year seem averse to moving, and bave generally decided to remain where they are another year. Bents generally throughout the city are very firm, and differ very little from those of the past year. The difference is more marked in the upper portion of the city. In the vicinity of the Central Park, and in localities like Twenty-thirdst., which, it is expected, will be appropriated for business purposes. The greatest advance has been in Harlem, where owners flud no difficulty in disposing of their houses at the rents demanded. Harlem, although one of the pleasantest portions of the city, has never been fully appreciated; and yet it presents many advantages of New-York life, with comfortable dwellings at low rates. A slight increase of routs is noticeable in Yorkville and the East Side property lying between it and Thirty-fourth-st. West Side improved property up town is not so abundant as to present any marked feature so far as rents are concerned. In the central and lower portions of the city there is no special change, owners contenting thereselves with present rates, and tenants accepting the situation. Where to go, therefore, and what to pay, in New-York, may be decided from the following summary:
There is an active demand in Harlem for bouses reat-

ing from \$500 to \$500 per annum. Prame dwellings can be had as low as \$35 per month, while others of a better chase, and brick and brown-stone houses range from 1000 to \$1,309. Three-story brown-stone houses, 16 feet 8 mehes wide, well situated, with all conveniences, have been let during the past week for \$720. Stores are scarce, except in sparsely inhabited neighborhoods. Thement and apartment houses are easily filled at the prices asked. In Yorkville, rents between \$1,290 and \$1,800 are firmer. Houses which were let last year for \$1,500 readily bring rom \$1,600 to \$1,600, and are taken about as fast as they are put into the market. There is a juntled inquiry ter remished houses, few of which are to be had. Store property in Yorkville and along the line of the Taird-ave, is readily taken up. On the west side of the city, below the Park, rents are firm at last year's rates. Smaller houses at low rents are to demand, but are scarce, and very few can be had as low as \$1,200 or \$1,509. There is greater variety of high priced property to be had, although in central locations first-class houses, renting from \$3,000 to \$1,500, are limited in number, the tenants preferring to hold over. Rents of Twenty-third-st. property have advanced about 15 per cent. This increase in in view of the capiality with which the street is assuming a business character. Stores in Broadway are let at once, and houses for the

same purpose cannot be had in Stxth-ave., below Forty ninth-st. The more westerly avenues participate in these influences as far as their character will admit. Apartment houses command good rents, and flats are eagerly taken. In houses of this description in or near Sixth-ave., the rent of flats varies from \$80 to \$150 per month. In the lower portion of the city, the same conditions exist as in the more central locations. Property below Thirty-fourth-st. seems to be regarded as past the prime for exclusive neighborhoods, and many poole who have hitherto kept within the limits of Fourteenth and Thirty-fourth-sts., are willing and anxious to more further up-town.
In store and office property to the lower part of the

city there is no falling off. All the best property adapted for the use of banks. assurance companies, and broken is let. Rent, in Wallet, are stronger than for several yours. Chambers, Murray, and Reade-sts, have improved within the past few years, and the new Post-Office is benefiting adjoining localities. Most of the store property down town is in good hands and is hold firmly, waers preferring to keep their buildings vacant rather than to let them at lower prices than they consider just. The paper and hardware traded seem to be moving westward beyond the City Hall Park, and to be settling in Reade and boutiguous streets. Some of the leading owners of down-town property, knowing that the wholesale trades follow the hotels, have con sulted upon a plan for checking the up-town movement This plan is for the formation of a company, with a paid up capital of \$1,000,000. With this capital, they intend to secure a favorable location, and to build and furnish a first-class hotel. By this means it is intended not easy to retain trade but evel to induce a return to a portion of the city which, it is carnestly contended, offers the best advantages to wholesale dealers for business. M this end is achieved, the owners of down-town property look for speedy compensation in their proposed enterprise.

In Brooklyn the demand for houses has been such as to warrant the assertion that there will be no decline in rents, while in certain sections there will be an advance. particularly in new localities, whore houses have been section of the city adjacent to and west of Prospect Part rents are expected to advance from ten to twenty per cent. Houses in the Twenty-first Ward will comma higher rates. Very few low priced houses are to be and "down town," the tenants preferring to remain where they are. Beyond Bedford-ave., at a distance of 25 miles from the ferries, numerous houses can be had at less rents. Two-story and basement houses of size or seven rooms rent for \$400, and improvements for \$500. A better class of dwellings com be had for from \$700 to \$1,000. In South Brooklyn there are many good houses at moderate prices, ranging from \$400 to \$1,200. Houses west of Bedford-ave, and north of Atlantic st. are searce. Rents in that region vary from \$700 to \$3,000 for unfurnished dwellings. The rates for furnished houses, of which there are a limited number, vary from \$1,300 to \$6,000. In some parts of the Rasters District, particularly in the Nineteenth Ward, rents are higher, ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,400. Brown-stone house said to be worth \$3,500 in New-York cost only \$1,400 here. Three-story brick houses in the Thirteenth Ward, near the ferties, are letting for \$300 to \$1,100. In the Eighteenth and outlying wards very good frame houses containing all improvements rent for about \$500. 118 the Fifteenth Ward (Greenpoint) rents are about as usual, from \$500 to \$800. In the northerly portion of Brooklyn very few tenants seem inclined to move, this disposition is quite noticeable this season, while at the same time the demand for houses is very great. real estate agent in the Eastern District within two days has canvassed the houses of which he has hitherto had control, and in the course of 40 visitations has found that in each case the tenants have determined to retain their houses.

IN JERSET CITY AND HOBOKEY

Although the weather is claimed to have had its nateral effect in keeping house-hunters at home, the call for houses in Jersey City is equal to that of last Spring. which was exceptionally good, and the demand in special localities is far in advance of the supply. Rents are firm, and are about ten per cent higher than they were hast year, varying from \$400 to \$800 in ordinary, and to \$1,500 in the best localities. Pirst-class boarding-houses, worth about \$3,000 per annum in New-York, can be had for \$1,400 or \$1,500. The hights offer better houses at cheaper rates, rents in that locality being about 33 per cont lower than in the section adjacent to she ferrior, where the greatest demand prevails. Nice 1 30 story houses of from five to seven rooms, can be hired for \$25 a month, and first-class three-story and basement houses, with ail the improvements and three lots of ground attached, are rented at \$100. As West End all the houses are occupied and very tew are to be relet. The same may be said of Greenville, which has been rather backward until within the past year. In the vicinity of Hamilton-square, which is considered one of the best sections, houses rent for \$500 and upward. In Hoboken very little, if any, variation is to be observed from the rates of last year. In a few instances there are higher rates. Rents, according to one agency, rande from \$350 to \$1,200 per annum. Saug three-story brick houses, at 15 minutes' walk from the ferry, have been les at \$350. Other good dwellings in Hoboken, in the hands of brokers, can be had from \$700 to \$1,200 per annum There are not enough of these to meet the demand, and

during the past month than in the corresponding pariod SUMMART.

it is said that more houses have been let in Hoseker

In conclusion it may be added that a remarkable mand has arisen for houses within the boundaries New-York and its accessible suburbs, and that while the demand exists there is a counter indisposition of tensor to seek new homes. Rents, except in special localities are firm with little variation. Good and comfortable houses can be had in Brooklyn for from \$400 to \$1,500 : 15 Jersey City and Hoboken from \$300 to \$1,500; and in Now-York from \$400 to \$1,500 and \$2,000. To people seek ing exclusive localities and willing to hire clerants furnished dwellings, with all the comforts and pleasure of metropolitan life near at band, New-York, of contra presents the only opportunity.